

## **Information about The Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities**

In 1987, the Legislature created The OMHDD to promote the highest attainable standards of treatment, competence, efficiency and justice for persons receiving services or treatment for mental illness, developmental disabilities, chemical dependency or emotional disturbance.

The Office is an independent state agency.

The Governor appoints the Ombudsman.

The Governor also appoints a 15 member Ombudsman Advisory Committee to advise the Ombudsman. From this group, a Medical Review Subcommittee (MRS) is selected to work with the Medical Review Unit (MRU) in the review of deaths and serious injuries. The Medical Review Coordinator facilitates the work of the MRS and serves as liaison between the MRS and the Ombudsman.

Regional Ombudsman staff are located in St. Paul and at Regional Offices around the state. Regional staff provide assistance to clients living in the community as well as Regional Treatment Centers.

## **How do I report a death or serious injury to The OMHDD?**

The OMHDD has a website from which both the Serious Injury and Death Report forms can be downloaded:

**[mn.gov/omhdd/report-death-or-serious-injury/](http://mn.gov/omhdd/report-death-or-serious-injury/)**

Please fax the completed document to (651) 797-1950. Retain the original document for your records.

If you don't have internet access, please call The OMHDD number below so that a copy can be faxed or mailed to you.

Thank you for your assistance with this process which has been designed to benefit the clients we serve.

## **The Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities**

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**Minnesota Relay Services:** 711



STATE OF  
MINNESOTA

**THE OFFICE OF  
OMBUDSMAN  
FOR MENTAL HEALTH  
AND  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES**

# **REPORTING DEATHS AND SERIOUS INJURIES**

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### Why do I report a death or serious injury to the OMHDD?

It is mandated in Minn. Stat § 245.94, Subd. 2a, that an agency, facility, or program report to The OMHDD the death or serious injury of a client. The report must be made within 24-hours of the death or serious injury.

Information from serious injury reports and death reports is entered into a database. Regional Ombudsman are notified of all serious injuries for review and appropriate action in their regions. All death reports are sent to the Medical Review Coordinator to determine the type of review the report will receive. Aggregate data from the reviews is used to identify trends, problem areas and opportunities to improve care. Implementing improvements is a cooperative effort with agencies, facilities, and programs and may be accomplished by recommendations, educational efforts and input into policy changes.

### What is the Medical Review Subcommittee (MRS)?

- The MRS consists of at least five members of the Ombudsman's Advisory Committee.
- At least three of the members must be physicians, one of whom is a

This material can be given to you in different forms, like large print, Braille or on a tape, if you call 1-651-757-1800.

### What is considered a serious injury?

- Fracture
- Dislocation
- Internal Injury
- Head Injury with loss of consciousness
- Lacerations with nerve, tendon, or muscle damage
- Burn, second or third degree
- Frostbite, second or third degree
- Eye Injury
- Dental Injury that causes avulsion of teeth
- Ingestion of poison or harmful substance
- Near Drowning
- Heat Exhaustion/Sun Stroke
- Complication of previous injury
- Complication of medical treatment
- Suicide Attempt
- Self-Injurious Behavior (SIB)
- Any injury deemed serious by a physician

### What does the MRS do?

- Meets on a regular basis
- Reviews client deaths when questions arise about the treatment provided
- May make recommendations to prevent occurrence of similar deaths
- May identify system-wide problems
- May provide consultation and offer advice for improving the system
- May report to, or request consultation with, relevant licensing or regulatory agencies
- May be asked to lend its expertise to specific issues raised by the Ombudsman staff

### Definitions

**Client** is any person served by an agency, facility, or program, who is receiving services or treatment for mental illness, developmental disabilities, chemical dependency or emotional disturbance.

**Agency** means (1) the divisions, officials, or employees of the Department of Human Services; Department of Health; Department of Education; local school districts; or (2) county social services agencies that are engaged in monitoring, providing, or regulating services or treatment for mental illness, developmental disabilities, chemical dependency or emotional disturbance.

**Facility or program** means a residential or non-residential program or an acute care inpatient facility that provides services or treatment for mental illness, developmental disabilities, chemical dependency or emotional disturbance. The latter includes psychiatric units in private hospitals.

#### Equal Opportunity Statement

The OMHDD does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, marital status or status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, membership in a local human rights commission or disability in employment or the provision of services.